

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Swamp Harriers preying on Senegal Turtle dove.—While walking along the edge of Bennett's Brook, Bassendean, on January 25, 1954, I flushed two Swamp Harriers (*Circus approximans*) from a small cleared patch of ground almost surrounded by short reeds (*Juncus* sp.). They had left a freshly-killed immature Senegal Turtle dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*), partly eaten and with numerous feathers strewn about the ground. The Harriers flew to a tree about 20 yards away but eventually disappeared.

—DONALD N. CALDERWOOD, Beacon.

Flight speed of *Phaps chalcoptera*.—On the afternoon of February 7, 1954, ten miles west of Popanyinning, I paced, in a late model Vanguard car, a Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) for an approximate distance of 200 yards at, according to the speedometer, a steady 40 miles per hour.

After flying up the road about a chain in front of the car for the estimated distance, it suddenly veered off to the right and disappeared into the scrub. —BRIAN V. TEAGUE, Narrogin.

***Oreoica gutturalis* at Williams in 1945.**—As it extends somewhat the usual range of the species, it may be of some interest to place on record that a Crested Bell-bird (*Oreoica gutturalis*) was observed by me in the immediate vicinity of the 90-mile peg on the Perth-Albany Highway, early in the winter of 1945.

The exact location was on the south side of the road, in a paddock which has since been cleared and tilled, but which at that time was a thicket of regrowth saplings of *Eucalyptus redunca*.

The bird was first heard but not sighted, on May 23, and upon making a special search on May 27 I was, after much patient watching and calling, able to closely though briefly observe it several times. It was, however, extremely shy. The bird was subsequently heard calling, in its unmistakable ventriloquial voice, on the afternoons of June 14 and 15 of the same year.

—BRIAN TEAGUE, Narrogin.

Observations on a Long-tailed Wasp, *Megalyra shuckardi* West.—When walking with me along the banks of the Helena River, West Midland, at 4.30 p.m. on February 14, 1954, my young son Bruce pointed out a black and white spotted wasp on the trunk of a flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*). It was one of the Long-tailed Wasps (*Megalyra shuckardi* West.). Its ovipositor was inserted into a crack in the dried bark below it. I carefully removed the bark behind the wasp and uncovered the tunnel of a longicorn beetle.

Making sure I did not alarm the wasp, I worked up towards her and almost immediately came across a beetle nymph. Further cutting disclosed the ovipositor of the wasp still working down towards the nymph. Anxious to see whether the wasp bored through the wood or worked its ovipositor through cracks, I